

## News Release

# Dr. Kari Torkelson Recipient of Prestigious University of Minnesota Alumni Service Award; Presentation Slated for May 7, 2011, during Commencement Exercises

By Itollefs on Monday, April 4, 2011

The University of Minnesota announced recently Alumna Dr. Kari Torkelson as one of this year's recipients of the Alumni Service Award, one of the most prestigious awards bestowed upon alumni of the University. A reception for Torkelson will held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center.

Torkelson, a past president of the U of M Crookston Alumni Association (UMCAA), will be formally recognized during commencement exercises on May 7, 2011, on the campus. The ceremony begins at 2 p.m. in Lysaker Gymnasium. Torkelson is both humbled and pleased by the recognition, "It doesn't seem quite right to be honored for something you love to do--promoting and supporting UMC," she says.

"Kari is an outstanding and valuable ambassador of the University of Minnesota Crookston. Her leadership and passion for our campus are unparalleled," says Charles H. Casey, chancellor. "We are extremely proud to call her one of our alumni. She leads by example in every way."



Torkelson attended the U of M Crookston from 1989 to 1991 while the campus was still a two-year technical college. As a student, Torkelson participated in volleyball, basketball, sang in the choir, served as a resident assistant, and was a member of the Campus Ministry.

She transferred to North Dakota State University, Fargo, and then transferred to Indiana University, Bloomington, where she completed her bachelor's degree, and then, went on to complete her doctorate of optometry there as well. She is currently an optometrist at Lifetime Vision Center in Grand Forks, N.D.

Torkelson participates in many service activities. She is a member of the Teambacker Board, All-Campus Advisory Board, North Dakota School for the Blind Foundation Board, and the Red River Habitat for Humanity Board. For several years, she was a member of the Grand Forks Master Chorale and served on their board.

"It is inspiring to serve on many different committees at UMC because I can see firsthand how other volunteers and administrators give of their time to make sure the campus continues to be a great asset to the University of Minnesota system and the state of Minnesota," says Torkelson.

In 2001, Torkelson received the Outstanding Alumni Award. She also was a member of the 1989-90 women's basketball team inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008. For a list of other U of M Alumni Service Award recipients, check online.

Today the University of Minnesota Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and more than 40 concentrations, including several online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of about 1,400 undergraduates from more than 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

## News Categories

- Events
- Awards and Recognition
- Alumni & Donors

Tweet

News Home
News Archives



Small Campus. Big Degree..

- Employment
- Events Calendar
- Academic Calendar
- Library
- Directories
- Maps, Directions & Parking
- Quick Facts
- Bookstore

- Faculty & Staff🔒
- Email & Calendar🔒
- Contact Webmaster
- System Website
- Home

2900 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716  
800-862-6466 | 218-281-6510 | [umcinfo@umn.edu](mailto:umcinfo@umn.edu)

© 2021 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.  
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.  
[Privacy Statement](#)